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## Literature

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# Literature

**Minnesota Genealogical Journal**, Vol. I, No. 1, May, 1984. Published by Park Genealogical Book Company, 3601 - 78th Avenue North, Brooklyn Center, MN 55443.

Alfred J. Dahlquist is an ambitious genealogist in Minnesota, who for many years has been in the forefront of genealogical research in that state. Though his surname denotes his Swedish paternal line, it is his maternal line, French Canadian, which has occupied most of his attention. He has been an active member of the Minnesota Genealogical Book Society for many years and has chaired the Scandinavian section of that group. During these years he has developed some good contacts in various portions of the North Star State as well as neighboring Wisconsin. Some years ago he founded the successful book store, called Park Genealogical Book Company and it is therefore not surprising that a man with Dahlquist's energy and ambition now has decided to enter the publishing field with his own magazine, *Minnesota Genealogical Journal*. The first issue appeared in May of this year, the first of a semiannual publication.

It is a pleasure to report that Dahlquist's first issue is meaty and loaded with excellent source materials. The entire number has been devoted to the printing of source materials from Minnesota and Wisconsin. He has at his beck and call a number of genealogists in both states who have helped him in putting out issue No. 1. By far, the greater portion of the material dates back to the territorial days of Minnesota and Wisconsin, and from studying the pages it seems to this reviewer that here repose treasures for those with roots going back as far as the first half of the 19th century.

This is of course small comfort to the majority of Minnesotans, whose ancestors arrived to the U.S. shores during the latter half of the last century. Knowing, however, Alfred Dahlquist's perseverance and ambition, I am sure he will furnish his readers with material also spanning the decades of the latter part of the past century.

The Dahlquist journal is a fat issue, containing precisely 100 pages. It is multi-printed on good stock and measures letter size of 8½ x 11 in. bound in soft covers. It is scheduled to be published semiannually and will cost a subscriber \$10.60. per year.

Among the contents of the first issue of *Minnesota Genealogical Journal* we find among other things extracts from *The Minnesota Pioneer*, Minnesota's first newspaper, little snippets of information which shed light concerning the early days of the territory. There are marriage and funeral records of Charles E. Thayer, a Presbyterian clergyman in Minnesota, active during the years 1855-1907, and whose vast files have been donated to the Minnesota Historical Society.

Of major interest to searchers with roots in early Wisconsin is the list of marriages for Crawford County, dating from 1816 to 1848. Among these records is a virgin find of 158 marriage records, heretofore unknown and thus inaccessible to scholars. They were discovered in a collection of records sent from the office of the Clerk of Court of Crawford Co. to the Archives of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin in 1983.

Additionally the *MGJ* contains marriage records for several Minnesota counties for the following periods:

- Benton Co. 1850-1870
- Freeborn Co. 1857-1860
- Hennepin Co. 1853-1856
- Ramsey Co. 1849-1852
- Washington Co. 1849-1856

For Americans with Swedish roots in Minnesota the first issue has somewhat sparse pickings, but this will surely improve with time. Yet the reviewer found, after a check, no less than 25 early Swedes in this issue.

The most sensational discovery, however, was to find the marriage certificate of Jacob Fahlstrom, generally accepted as having been the first Swede to arrive in Minnesota and who died in Afton, Washington Co. in 1859. We learn from the Crawford Co. marriage records in Wisconsin (page 46) that in Vol. I, p. 31 of those records, Jacob Falstram (sic) was married to Margaret Pierce of Prairie du Chien, WI, the certificate having been dated 25 Aug. 1829. The officiant at this marriage was J. H. Lockwood, Justice of the Peace. We can thus add two more facts to the scant knowledge we have concerning the early days of Jacob Fahlstrom—the date of his marriage certificate and the correct surname of his wife (whose name in printed sources usually has been given as Margaret Burgo or Bungo).

Mr. Dahlquist is to be congratulated on his first attempt to break into genealogical publishing. This colleague wishes him good luck and many more excellent issues of his journal in the future.

—Nils William Olsson

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**Släkten Santesson från Långaryd (The Santesson Family from Långaryd).** By Gunnar O. C. H. Santesson and published by Lagerblads Tryckeri, Karlshamn, Sweden, 1982. 182 pp. \$37.50.

This handsome volume, based in part on an earlier work by F. B. Hugo Santesson, *Släkten Santesson och några andra släkter med liknande namn (The Santesson Family and Other Families with Similar Names)*, published in Uppsala 1923, is an expanded up-to-date version of the Santesson family in Sweden and abroad. Dr. Gunnar Santesson has had assistance also from two kinsmen, B. G. Rudolph Santesson as well as Bror Oscar Santesson. The net result is a fascinating volume covering the long history of the family, going back to Per Håkansson, who died in Bökhult in Långaryd Parish (Jön.) 6 Jan. 1695. A notice mentions that he "was 83 years old" at the time of his death, which means that he was born in 1612, the year after King Gustavus Adolphus ascended the Swedish throne.

We don't know too much about Per Håkansson, but we know a little more regarding his first wife, Karin Santedotter, from whom the entire clan has derived its name. She was the daughter of Sante Persson, a regimental quartermaster in the Swedish Army. The Santesson name is a very early example of how a patronymic turned into a family name.

Reading the Santesson volume is like reading Swedish history. Its members have been everywhere—from the Russian battlefields in Sweden's war with Russia during the time of Charles XII to the pulpits of several Swedish churches as well as to people engaged in the trades and commerce. One of them, Berndt Harder Santesson of Göteborg, collaborated with the great Baltzar von Platen to help create the famous Göta Canal.

The volume contains no less than 12 genealogical charts as well as a profusion of illustrations.

For the American student of the Santesson book it should be pointed out that several members of the clan emigrated to the U. S. Some of these have kept contacts with the family in Sweden, whereas others have been lost as the years have gone on. These "lost" America Santessons are listed below, perhaps in the hope that some reader of *SAG* can help in finding out what happened to them. Dr. Gunnar Santesson would be most pleased if persons can communicate with him concerning these "lost sheep." His address is Östermalmsgatan 89, 114 59 Stockholm, Sweden.

The missing American Santessons are as follows:

1. Adolf Hugo Santesson, b. 1844, last heard from in 1861.
2. Frans Johan Santesson, b. 1808, last heard from in 1837.
3. Berndt Peter Santesson, b. in Lund 1835; emigr. to America with his family and settled near St. Paul, MN as a farmer.

4. Johan Santesson, b. in Lund 1772; took his law degree at the University of Lund in 1788; went to America and was declared legally dead in 1816.
5. Berndt Ehrenfried Santesson, b. 1882; emigr. to Stockton, CA 1904 from Adolf Fredrik Parish in Stockholm. According to one source he was residing at one time at 141 W. Channel Street in Stockton.
6. Frans Alvin Carl Adolf Santesson, b. in Stockholm 1865; first mate aboard the Swedish vessel *Augusta*. Is supposed to have been lost at sea when his vessel foundered between England and the United States.
7. Carl Olov Santesson, b. 23 Aug. 1890; resided in the U.S. since 1907; not heard from since 1915.
8. Carl Johan Oskar Santesson, b. in Lowell, MA 1898; d. in West Newbury, MA and buried in Edson Cemetery. It is not known if he was married or had a family.
9. Bernt Olof Santesson, b. at Janneberg near Karlshamn in Sweden 18 Oct. 1926; employed at the model farm of Louis Bromfield—Malabar Farm in Ohio. The family heard from him as recently as 1980, when he was residing at 371 Orange Street, Chillicothe, OH 45601. All evidence points to the fact that he is or was not married.

The Santesson volume is an excellent example of how a good family genealogy should be published. It is objective and factual and does not lend itself to the glorification of past achievements. It is handsomely bound, a pride for any library. It has, of course, as one would expect, a very good index.

It is to be hoped that an English edition could be made available in the future. The volume is well worth a translation.

—Nils William Olsson

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**Knektar i Konga kompani (Soldiers in the Konga Company).** By Carl Gustav Collin. Printed by Högborns Tryckeri, Växjö, 1983. Distributed by the author, Spexhult, 571 00 Nässjö. 552 pp. \$30.00.

In order to really appreciate the massive research which has gone into this volume, one must know something of the old military system in Sweden, which dates back to 1682, when King Charles XI organized the entire Swedish military system, which functioned down to 1901, when it was replaced by the general draft. This system, which now has celebrated its 300th anniversary, was called *indelningsverket*, a Swedish word, difficult to translate, but which divided the entire Swedish defense system, soldiers and mariners, into units, as small as a district within a parish called *rote* (the plural is *rotar*). Depending upon the size of the parish a certain number of *rotar* were established within that body. Each *rote* of farmers was responsible for supplying a soldier or mariner (*båtsman*), equipping him with uniform and accoutrements, furnishing him with living quarters, usually a small cottage or croft with some land, on which he could grow grain or potatoes and perhaps be able to feed a cow and some pigs.

The soldier or mariner lived in the community, except when he was commanded to attend certain stipulated maneuvers at nearby encampments. In time of war, he and his fellow soldiers marched off to meet other companies and when the regiment was ready, it would be shipped off to a theater of war.

Konga Company represented the *härads* or hundred of Konga, located in Småland. Together with companies from other hundreds in Småland they made up the Kalmar Infantry Regiment.

The *rotesoldat* (district soldier) belonged to a given district, within which he also had his personal number. He was billeted in the soldier's croft as long as he was an active soldier. When he was pensioned off, he had to leave the cottage and find other living quarters. His pay was low and he was usually to be found in the lower echelons of the parish. Occasionally he eked

out extra money by being the local schoolmaster.

In wartime he had to leave his family and if he did not return, his widow and children had to leave the cottage and shift for themselves, difficult on a small widow's pension.

The scope of the Collin study is to see what happened to the more than 2,000 soldiers who served in the Konga Company from the late 17th century to 1901. He has picked Konga, since it is the area he knows best, having his roots in this hundred. He has examined every scrap of information from the military records and has been able to build up a very imposing record for all of his soldiers. The story centers on Konga hundred which is composed of six parishes—Algutsboda with 19 *rotar* or districts; Vissefjärda with 10 *rotar*; Långasjö with 22; Södra Sandsjö with 20; Älmeboda with 40 and Ljuder with 26 *rotar*. In addition there were five extra *rotar* for a total of 142 soldiers' districts.

Mr. Collin has not only studied his Konga soldiers in depth. He has also worked over the material statistically and has come up with some interesting results. Despite the bloody wars in which Sweden was engaged in the 17th and 18th centuries, it is surprising that only 4% of the soldiers died on the battle field. A much greater percentage succumbed from other causes, primarily diseases.

With so much material on hand it is to be expected that many of the soldiers also emigrated to America. The reviewer has found a total of 21 of them who emigrated or absconded to America. They are listed below. If a *SAG* reader can offer information as to the fate of any of these I am sure that Mr. Collin would be happy to hear about it. His address is given at the beginning of this review. The emigrants are listed here by *rote*, domicile, name, birth date and place as well as the date he left for the U.S.

<i>Rote</i>	<i>Place</i>	<i>Soldier</i>	<i>Birth Place</i>	<i>Birth Date</i>	<i>To U.S.</i>
7	Högaskog	Johannes Håkansson Örn	Madesjö	3 Aug. 1834	1880
15	Västra Hällasjö Norregård	Johan Peter Andersson Kling	Långasjö	16 Apr. 1825	1878
28	Hovgård	Johan August Andersson Bolin	Karlslanda	17 May 1857	Absc. 1891
31	Ingemundsbo Västergård	Elias Jonasson Ljungqvist	Långasjö	4 Apr. 1859	1883
35	Bredalycke Norregård	Alfred Petersson Blomgren	Ljuder	8 Dec. 1857	1890 +1908
56	Genesmåla	Johan Peter Svensson Runo-Rylander	Sandsjö	22 Jan. 1840	1889
72	Brännebo Hanagård	Carl Anders Pettersson Borg	Madesjö	12 Feb. 1872	1907
79	Follsebo	Carl Edvin Stark Folin	Skärsjöhult	21 May 1874	Absc. Ret.
84	Illareboda	Johan August Israelsson Holmgren	Fridlevstad	26 Dec. 1852	1889
92	Trällebo	Petter Magnus Gummesson Frithiof	Algutsboda	11 Oct. 1830	1857
92	Trällebo	Johan Petter Fransson Kjell	Ljuder	31 July 1869	1905

103	Skarmansmåla	Gustaf Wilhelm Rydqvist	Hovmantorp	1 Nov. 1857	1888
105	Askefälla	Nils Petter Olsson Svan	Sillhövda	7 May 1842	1888
108	Skuntamåla	Petter Andersson Skott	Fridlevstad	16 Sept. 1820	1887
116	Vida Södergård	August Carlsson Gräns, son of Carl Johan Petersson Gräns	Hovmantorp	- - 1859	1878
116	Vida Södergård	Carl Johan Carlsson Gräns, son of Carl Johan Petersson Gräns	Hovmantorp	- - 1863	
121	Kylle	Petter Samuel Pettersson Käll	Algutsboda	23 June 1823	1890
121	Kylle	Johan August Carlsson	Algutsboda	5 March 1839	1864
121	Kylle	Edvard Skruvsson Käll	Ljuder	3 Oct. 1851	1889
125	Ålebäcksås	Johan Pettersson Åberg	Långasjö	20 June 1839	1890
126	Skruv Västergård	Johan Elof Petersson Blid	Hovmantorp	17 Dec. 1856	1888

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Absc. = Absconded; Ret. = Returned

—Nils William Olsson

## Long Generations

The average generation is usually accepted as being on the average thirty years or roughly three generations per century. Occasionally, because of huge age differences between an older husband and a younger wife, children born late in the life of the father will obviously lengthen the generations.

Mrs. Eva Svahn Grönberg of Stockholm, Sweden has furnished the following unique case, published in the Swedish genealogical journal, *Släkt och Hävd*, 1984, p. 141:

On 1 Oct. 1983 Miss Elna Fernström of Eskilstuna celebrated her 95th birthday, having been born in 1888. Her paternal grandfather, Johan Gustaf Fernström, a city councillor in the city of Skara in Västergötland, was born 8 May 1793. His youngest son, Harald Fernström, was born in 1855, when his father was 62 years of age. Harald Fernström in turn became the father of Elna. Thus Miss Fernström, living at the end of the 20th century, has a grandfather, born in the late 18th century—making three generations in 190 years.